

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 17-18 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-15 are amended to correct minor informalities and improve matters of form. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 2.

The Abstract has been amended to conform to USPTO requirements.

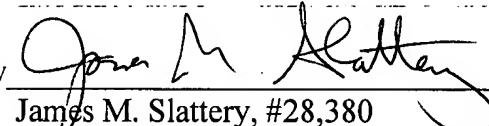
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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